

April 2010

The Messenger

Let's DO It!

Our **Renew + Rebuild = Revival!** stewardship campaign has been an incredible success! To receive pledges approaching \$600,000 is beyond my comprehension. In addition, people shared with me throughout the campaign the unity, joy, and peace they felt during worship and in the meetings and events they attended. I draw two implications from these experiences: first, the work that we identified was necessary for our church, and second, God is with us.

The energy and excitement from the campaign have created movement and momentum in our church. Evidence of this energy is the 50 people showing up for Alpha, doubling our expectations. Many people feel the need to bolster their Christian foundation and renew their faith through Alpha. My hope is that each person who attends Alpha this Spring will encourage a friend or family member to attend Alpha this Fall.

As the weather warms and the snow melts away and the trees begin to bud, I notice a sense of anticipation of what God is going to do next at Broadway. Are we going to be able to capitalize on the momentum that God has generated, moving us forward in our mission here in Rockford? Our answer to that question depends upon our willingness to look beyond ourselves and our walls, and see what is *out there*.

The structural purpose for the **Renew + Rebuild = Revival!** campaign was to make our building accessible and appealing in the 21st Century, correcting many long-standing problems with the building. The architectural vision will renew Broadway's entrances and bathrooms, and God's overabundance will bless us with an elevator.

Beyond our structure, our campaign also had a spiritual purpose to ensure that we all understand that stewardship extends past our finances into every area of our lives. Through the campaign's Stewardship Inventory, we prayerfully examined our commitments to worship attendance, membership, and serving with our gifts. For some of us, Alpha will be a key component of this stewardship extension. So we will rebuild our structure through the campaign and through Alpha we will revive our faith. But what comes next? How do we capitalize on our unity?

What comes next comes in the form of a challenge from Pastor Miles McPherson, a former NFL star. His challenge is to **"DO Something!"** to look beyond our walls into our neighborhood and serve those around us. Over the next few weeks, I want you to look around our neighborhood and think of what we can DO to serve and love our neighbors. Perhaps there are ways we can help at Rolling Green Elementary School, Whitehead Elementary School, Flinn Middle School, or East High School. Maybe we can clean up the parks, paint some houses, mow some lawns, and feed the hungry in our neighborhood. In the weeks following Easter, I hope you will come up with some great ideas of what we can DO to love those in our community. What Alpha and our **Renew + Rebuild = Revival!** campaign showed is that Broadway Covenant Church can accomplish great things when we all chip in and DO our part. Let's share these great things with those around us. May each of us DO our part serving our neighborhood. May we DO Something!¹

Let's DO it Together for Christ, Pastor Eric

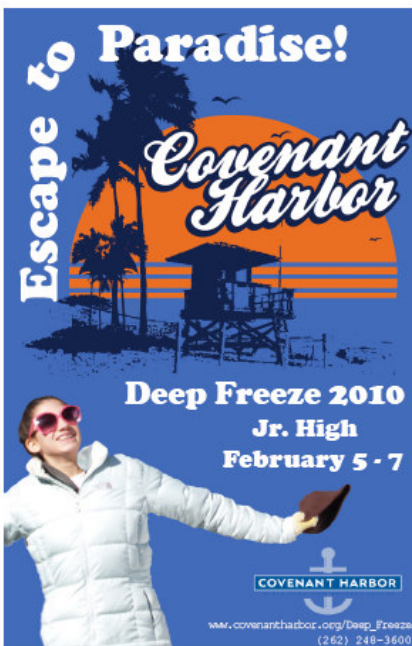
¹ Please spend time in prayer over what we as a church can DO for our neighborhood. Let me know your ideas! Feel free to call me at 815-399-9296x11, email me eric.filkin@broadwaycovenant.com or use the Communication Card on Sundays.

Student Ministries

Greetings Broadway Covenant! First off, thank you so much to all the parents for trusting me with your kids this weekend at Deep Freeze. It was a great experience for all involved. After some cheese curds and butterburgers at Culver's en route to Covenant Harbor, we arrived at the camp around 7PM on Friday night. The guys schacked up at Hilltop and the girls had a room in the Lodge. After claiming bunks, hanging out, and eating beef jerky and pringles, it was off to the JAC for our opening session. Brandon Early, our speaker, along with the band, The Least of These, and the harbor staff did a great job of amping it up and engaging all of us in song, laughter, and community. Dylan made a spam castle and others engaged in goofy retro dance-offs and other challenges that left some a bit queasy! ☺ After things got cleaned up and calmed down, Brandon spoke on the Jesus Creed, which is simply "Love God, love others". He gave a very cool illustration using a study done by Cambridge University. This study showed how the brain reads. Some of you might be wanting to see the Cambridge paragraph...so here ya go. Enjoy!!

Aoccdrnig to a rscheearch at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it deosn't mttar in waht oredr the ltteers in a wrod are, the olny iprmoetnt tihng is taht the frist and lsat ltteer be at the rghit pclae. The rset can be a toatl mses and you can sitll raed it wouthit porbelm. Tihs is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the wrod as a wlohe.

How is that not cool?? Brandon used this to teach us that the Jesus Creed is the first and last letter of our faith. If those two are present and in place, then the rest of our mission, faith, life, and path makes sense. Very very cool.



When we weren't in large group worship, we were defini tely busy with other things. Kids were running throughout camp finding "lost" items that could be turned in for "auction cash". Broadway scored packs of small boomerangs and get this...a milk jug full of beans. Not sure what to do with those! During freetime kids braved the frozen lake geneva and went polar bear dipping. Some headed down to Snake Road Ropes course for some climbing wall action followed by a 300 foot zipline. I have video and pics of kids overcoming fears and persevering through challenges! Congrats to all of you for challenging yourselves and pushing past the limits!! Very cool! Other options included Arts and Crafts, extreme sledding, x-country skiing, broomball, open gym, bounce castle, naptime, or cards. Everybody found their interest and good times were had. The kids also contributed to both the sugar levels within themselves and the profit levels of Harbor's snack shack and pop machines!

While there, the kids were presented an opportunity to support Haiti Relief Efforts through a love offering on Saturday night. I decided that we would forego stopping for lunch on the way home on Sunday to allow kids to give to the offering if they so chose. It was very much their individual choice to give or not and I was extremely proud of our students as they stepped up to the challenge and provided what they could to help those struggling so badly in Haiti. They're living the message of the weekend..."Love God, love others". So awesome...

I was so blessed to have such a great group this year in addition to 2 fabulous counselors who go above and beyond each week. Thanks to Kristi Holstein and Dan Schweitzer for their great leadership and example to our students. This year we had nine students give their lives over to Christ at Deep Freeze and commit to following Him. How incredibly awesome is that! On behalf of all of us, thank you so much for all your support of BCC's Student Ministries. God is good!

Peace,

Derek

Mission Report

This month we are praying for Jim and Barb Mikrut and their daughters Sarah and Erin in Valle Hermoso Mexico, just south of the Texas Border. They have been there since 2006. They are involved in connecting U. S. mission teams with Mexican churches and organizing their trips. They are hoping that these trips will turn into long term relationships between U.S. groups and the people of Mexico by finding out what they can pray for and help each other. Broadway has had 2 trips with the Mikruts. Also it is their desire to reach the hearts of the people with the love of Christ by listening, encouraging and taking time to relate to one another. Please pray for safety for the Mikruts and the Mexican people, as there has been much violence in their area.

Peanut Butter Update: We took 23 pounds of peanut butter to the Rock River Valley Food Pantry.

Grounds for Life Needs: We have a box in the SE narthex by the Mission Board for donations for Grounds for Life Breakfast Program. They need the following items: creamer, jelly, sugar, syrup, powdered milk, aluminum foil, napkins, plastic silverware, oatmeal, grits, dish cloths, pot holders, aprons, dish soap, plastic bowls, coffee stirrers, Pam, and canned or bottled juice.

RAPCC Thank you:

Thank you so much for allowing us to distribute baby bottles during our *Change for Life* campaign in your church. To date, your congregation has raised \$457.68 through the baby bottles, and the amount raised by all churches working together is currently at \$25,086.46. We give thanks to God that we have surpassed our \$20,000.00 goal.

Prayer and Praise:

Covenant Youth of Alaska:

- Praise for the 100 people that came to their kick-off of their monthly singspiration outreach.
- Pray for more Native CYAK interns to be equipped for ministry in Alaska.
- Pray for the staff as they **Engage** young people in a relationship with Jesus, **Equip** them to serve, and then **Extend** the Kingdom of God by seeing them sent out to serve and reach others.

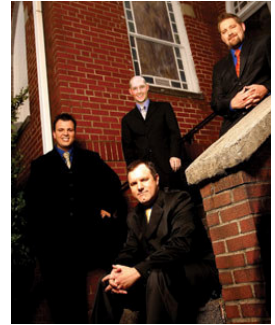
Bridge Ministries, Rockford

- Praise for a new group **Rockford Partners for Excellence** whose purpose is to help the West Middle School community.
- Pray for the ongoing local efforts to help the people of Haiti.

60 Plus

Join 60 Plus for lunch at the Egg Harbor in Edgebrook Shopping Center, Tuesday, April 20, 2010 at 11:30 AM. Please call Peggy, 282-0640 by Sunday, April 18th with your reservations or any questions.

We still have some reserved tickets to go to the Fireside Christian Concert to hear "The Anchormen" on May 18th for the Fireside's Fish and Chicken Buffet and Matinee Concert. The cost is \$34.95 person, plus tip. Please give Karen a \$1.00 deposit to reserve your place as soon as possible. The rest of the money (\$33.95) needs to be paid to Karen by April 15th.



We have reserved the Salvation Army Eden Express Bus for transportation and some will be riding in cars/vans.

The Lifescape Community Service's Senior Follies is Wednesday, May 12th. This year "Steppin' Out" will be presented at the First Evangelical Free Church at 2223 N. Mulford Road. "Steppin Out" is a musical review and performers range in age from fifty to ninety years young. Tickets are \$10 and if you are interested in going call Karen, 399-1523 and she will purchase a group of tickets. Reservations and the \$10 needs to be paid to her by April 11th.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN REPORT

We had a great evening at Franchesco's. We had some good food, good presentations, good conversation and musical entertainment by Gerry, Roy and Robin. The second phase of the campaign is complete, and the Lord has continued to show His faithfulness to us. We are still accepting pledges, but as a result of the Walk of Faith Celebration, last month, we have committed \$584,642 to the Rebuilding of His church here at Broadway Covenant! We have, as a congregation stepped out in faith. That step in itself, moves us towards Revival! The final phase is the Fulfillment phase and it will last three years. This is the time over which we keep the commitments we made towards the Renew+Rebuild=Revival! Campaign. God is Good, All the Time.

Your campaign co-Chairs
Steve and Kim Schweitzer

What Does it Mean to Care?

The word Care according to Webster has numerous meanings. It can mean to be concerned, to be burdened for someone, to protect someone, and it can mean thoughtfulness. But far more reaching and encompassing it signifies to have custody over, or to supervise or have charge or guardianship over another person or persons. That is what Jesus did when he became human. If we belong to Christ, he has custody or charge over our life or at least we should allow him to have charge over our life.

When we say that we care for one another within the church we are committing ourselves to a spiritual guardianship over each other. In other words we commit to love one another in practical ways. Some of these methods require us to send a card, or call one another in times of difficulty, perhaps to provide a meal when needed, to provide a ride if needed, and of course to pray for each other. Regardless if you belong to the Care Team or not, when you do these things you are caring for your church family. As the Congregational Care pastor I thank you so much for being part of this extremely important ministry and assisting me in my job at Broadway. I could not do it without you!

Beginning in 2010 as the Congregational Care pastor I have committed myself to visit every family in the church that would like a visit from me. I have calculated that this will take me between 1½ and 2 years. So if I don't get to you right away, please don't think I have forgotten you. I am looking forward to getting to know each one of you on a more personal level. So expect a call from me because I will be heading your way soon. Peace and Blessings to all, Pastor Joyce

Maundy Thursday

Please join us for dinner, Thursday, April 1st at 5:30 p.m. as we experience the Messiah in the Passover. The Last Supper that Jesus celebrated with his disciples was the Passover. Jesus transformed the Jewish festival of Passover into Holy Communion. We will eat traditional foods and learn the meaning behind Passover and how Jesus Christ fulfilled the promises of Passover. Call the office to sign up.

Good Friday Worship

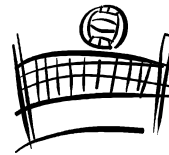
The Good Friday Service will be at 7:00 p.m. on April 2nd.



Easter Breakfast

Men's Ministry will be serving breakfast from 9:00 to 10:15 a.m. on Easter morning. A minimum contribution of \$3 for children under 12 and \$4 per adult with a family cost of \$12 is suggested. All your donations are appreciated as the money will be used for maintenance of women's vehicles on "Make a Difference Day." Call the church office or sign up in the SE narthex.

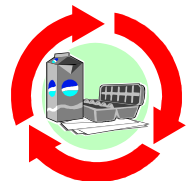
Skills Camp 2010



Skills Camp 2010 is fast approaching! This year it will be held June 14-18, 2010. Invite your kids, friends, grandkids, neighbors... All day camp is available for incoming 1st graders thru incoming 6th graders from 9-3:30. Ages 3-5 preschool camp is available from 9:15-11:30. New skills and sports will be offered. Get your registration forms in the church narthex. If you want to volunteer to help, contact Cheryl Ecklund at 637-4372.

Donations are needed for Skills Camp:

We are in need of recycled materials for one of the skills. Toilet paper rolls, paper towel rolls, tape, shoe boxes, egg cartons, etc. You can drop them off at church in the narthex. Questions, ask Cheryl Ecklund.



All gave some . . . some gave all

Craig Walter Anderson will be honored at the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington, D.C. on April 19th. Please keep his family in your prayers.

From the Building Committee

Construction is going to begin soon!! Pending final plan approval from the City of Rockford, we plan on starting the remodeling project the first part of April. Our general contractor, Larson & Larson will start on the north entrance and the bathrooms. After that phase is completed, work will begin on the southeast entrance and elevator. Construction should take four to five months to complete. Unfortunately, there will be some inconvenience. The entrance you use on a regular basis may be inaccessible for a period of time. The bathrooms on the first floor won't be usable for about a month. But the good news is the finished product in each instance will be better than what we have now!! We are making every effort to consider schedules and events already planned, but everyone needs to show patience and understanding. This is an exciting time for us. This is the first major renovation in almost 30 years. Thank you for your support during this process. The building committee will keep you informed through announcements, the Messenger and our website. We even have a blog for you to check. (That should be an interesting experience) Please feel free to contact any of the building committee members if you have questions.

With Thanks to God,
The Building Committee
Al Damrose
Eric Holstein
Randy Price
Kim Schweitzer
Steve Schweitzer
Keith Holmertz, Chair



Central WM Connection

Please see the flyers around church concerning the Central Conference Women's Ministries Connection. "Refocus! Refresh! Renew!" at the Central Conference Spring Celebration. This is a time to share in ministry connections, a time for information and a gathering of women throughout Illinois. You are part of something big. You'll learn, you'll laugh, and you'll love it! This event happens at First Covenant Church in Rockford on Friday evening, April 10th from 5-8 p.m. and Saturday, April 11th from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.



A Family Affair

You are invited to a Harbor Point Ministries Friend's Event supporting Covenant Point and Covenant Harbor on Saturday, April 17 at 5:00 pm. This occasion will take place at First Evangelical Covenant Church and includes fellowship, nourishment, information and opportunity. Look for a reservation form in the southeast narthex.



New Guinea Impatiens Mother's Day Hanging Baskets

Again this year Broadway Covenant will be selling Mother's Day hanging baskets and (new this year) gift certificates to Gensler Gardens. Profits from this fundraiser will be saved for future mission trips or CHIC. If you are interested in purchasing these items please complete this order form and turn in to the church office, Derek Melin or Kristi Swanson.

Name _____

Phone _____

Number of \$18 hanging baskets _____

Number of \$25 gift certificates _____

Total Amount Due _____

Orders must be turned in by April 26th
Delivery date is Wednesday, May 5th from 3-6 p.m.
in the lower level of the church. We are unable to
take requests for specific colors of the flowers.



Birthdays

- 3 Pat Johnson
- 7 Lillian Rabe
- 13 Grace Hulstedt
- 16 Alecia Jones
- 19 Brian Beyerl
- 20 Dawn Gowan
Kristi Swanson
- 21 Nancy Dahlstrom
Virginia Roen
Neil Kasicki
- 24 Doug Boettcher
- 29 Dan Hitchcock
Kari Whitney
Jeff Irelan



Anniversaries

- 7 Steve & Patty Simmons
- 12 Marshall & Catherine Johnson
Kari & Tyler Whitney
- 25 Kurt & Gladys Anderson
- 25 Jeff & Beth Holmertz
- 29 Rev. Ralph & Marilyn Dirksen

Remember in Prayer

The family of Louise Berg who passed away on March 17th.

Justin Murdock and **Mary Sue Bjurstom** serving in Afghanistan and **Craig Anderson** in Iraq.

April Head Usher

Eric Holstein

April Counters

Dan Hitchcock and Tyler Whitney

Thank You

Many thanks to all of my friends at Broadway Covenant for all the prayers, visits and cards while I was in the hospital and rehab. Also, my heartfelt appreciation for the plant from the church. I'm just starting outpatient therapy which is quite a process but I'm looking forward to getting off the walker. Hope to see all of you soon. Sincerely, **Katie Rowl**

Thanks so much! I really appreciate everyone's support and all the boxes. **Justin Murdock**
We are mailing this after Justin wrote the note when we visited him in Washington. He got a 2 week break from Afghanistan. When he was home his son was born! He really appreciates all support you have given him and the boxes of goodies. We know Roger and Sandy Creedy are keeping you updated. Thanks & God Bless,
Barb Scott Seibold (Justin's parents)

THANKS from the Renew+Rebuild=Renewal! Co-chairs

Kim and I would like thank all of the people that have been involved, so far, in what has turned out to be a very successful campaign. When you see your Steering Committee, be sure to thank them: Dave and Karen Holmertz, Keith Holmertz, Carolyn Augenson, Candice McCulloch, Kent and Jean Drews, Pastor Eric, and Colleen Felts. They put together their respective committees and really made it happen. They are true Stewards of what God has given them. They were truly dedicated to the success of the campaign.

There were many others involved behind the scenes. I won't list them as I may miss someone and you know who you are. These folks were involved in small groups, food preparation, banners, scheduling, counting, testimonials, typing, making phone calls and much, much more. THANK-YOU.

Finally, we want to thank everyone who has committed to financially contribute to Rebuild+Renew=Revival! Campaign. THANKS, and God Bless.
Kim and Steve Schweitzer

Spring Outside Clean-up

Please plan to help clean up the church yard and gardens on Saturday, May 1st.



April 2010



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 5:30 Passover Seder	2 7:00 Good Friday Service	3
4 9:00 Breakfast 10:15 Worship <i>Happy Easter</i>	5 9:00 Patchwork Quilters	6 8:30 Corporate Prayer	7 12:00 Prayer 4:30 Journey 5:30 Supper 6:00 Roots	8 6:30 Homeless Breakfast Pgrm	9	10
11 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 6:00 Overhaul	12	13 8:30 Corporate Prayer 6:30 Leadership Team Meeting	14 12:00 Prayer 4:30 Journey 5:30 Supper 6:00 Crosswalk/Roots	15	16 Overhaul leaves for 30 hour famine	17
18 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship Overhaul returns from 30 hr. famine	19 9:00 Patchwork Quilters	20 8:30 Corporate Prayer 11:30 60 Plus at Egg Harbor	21 Messenger News Due 12:00 Prayer 4:30 Journey 5:30 Supper 6:00 Crosswalk/Roots	22 6:30 Homeless Breakfast Pgrm	23	24
25 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 6:00 Overhaul	26	27 8:30 Corporate Prayer 7:00 Mission Mtg.	28 12:00 Prayer 4:30 Journey 5:30 Supper 6:00 Crosswalk/Roots	29	30	



Broadway Covenant Church
3525 Broadway
Rockford, IL 61108

Return Service Requested